

[Translation]

Modernisation of Ordnance Factories

6076. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise the ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). Modernisation programme of Ordnance Factories is an on-going process and the steps taken include replacement and renewal of old plant and machinery augmentation of capacities in critical areas and introduction of 'state-of-the-art' technology in production.

(c) The total expenditure likely to be incurred in 1991-92 on this account including projects and Works is Rs. 341.18 crore. A provision has been made for Rs. 380 crores in the 1992-93 budget estimates.

[English]

Decline in Tea Prices

6077. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the price of tea in 1991 as compared to the previous year in five auction centres;

(b) whether the fall was sharper in South Indian Centres;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to help the tea industry to come out of this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The overall decline in prices of tea during 1991 was a world wide phenomenon. As against the 7% decline in the prices in Indian auction centres, 18%, 28% and 9% was registered in Colombo, Jakarta and London respectively. Moreover the sharper decline in the price of South Indian Tea is no account of its higher availability.

(d) Government have been in constant touch with the new Republics of erstwhile USSR, which was the largest importer of Indian tea, to finalise purchase plan for tea from India for 1992 so as to provide adequate support for price line in Indian auctions.

Decline in Tea Exports

6078. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH;
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN;
SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA;
SHRI LALIT ORAON;
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea produced in the country and exported in each of the quarters during the last two years, till date, country-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(c) whether there has been a substantial decline in the export of tea in recent months;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase tea production

and to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The quantity of tea produced in the country in each of the quarters during the last two years is as follows:-

(Qty :M. Kgs.)

	1990	1991
Ist Quarter	54.47	58.67
II nd Quarter	200.91	204.63
III rd Quarter	268.30	282.89
IV Quarter	190.98	195.52
	714.66	741.71

* Estimated

Quarterwise break up of the countrywise exports will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange from total export of tea during 1990-91 was estimated at Rs.1070.15 crores. The amount of foreign exchange from the total export of tea in the ten months, April '91 to January '92 is estimated at Rs. 1014.30 crores as against Rs. 984.96 during the same period last years.

(c) There has been no decline in the exports during April-91 to January-92 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes for increasing tea production. These schemes provide

for long-term loan, subsidy and grant-in-aid for the purpose of new planting, replanting, rejuvenation, creation of irrigation facilities, procurement of processing machineries etc. In order to encourage tea export, various export incentives are granted to exporters in addition to promotional campaigns and schemes undertaken by the Tea Board to popularise Indian Tea abroad.

[Translation]

Underinvoicing of Imports

6079. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Underinvoicing of Imports on rise" appearing in "Financial Express" dated December 11, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government have